

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00718 070730Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02  
IO-13 TRSE-00 NEA-10 CU-02 /085 W  
-----070735Z 052386 /17

R 070644Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8028  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CSCE, HU  
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN MEDIA ENTER DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. HUNGARIAN MEDIA HAVE BEGUN TO REFLECT INTENSIFYING DEBATE GOING ON AROUND WORLD ABOUT ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. CRITICAL ARTICLES OF US STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS TAKEN FROM SOVIET MEDIA HAVE INCREASINGLY APPEARED OVER PAST WEEK OR TWO. IN LAST FEW DAYS THEY HAVE REACHED HIGHER LEVEL, AND HAVE INCLUDED FOR FIRST TIME SOME HUNGARIAN COMMENTARY AS WELL.

2. MARCH 4 NEPSZABADSAG EDITORIAL FOR EXAMPLE REHASHES RECENT REVELATIONS ON CIA PAYMENTS TO FOREIGN HEADS OF STATES, NOTES PRESIDENT'S CARTER'S ACCORDING AGENCY A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH AND CONTRASTS THIS WITH PRESIDENT'S AND USG'S STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IT ASKS WHETHER USG ACTIONS THROUGH CIA CONSISTENT WITH ITS CASTIGATION OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES  
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ON HUMAN RIGHTS. OTHER ARTICLES PICK UP SAME THEME AND CITE IN ADDITION NEWEST INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO BOEING PAYMENTS TO FRIENDLY POLITICIANS IN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.

3. PROMINENT MARCH 4 MTI STORY IN ALL BUDAPEST DAILIES DECRIES MEETING OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND VICE PRESIDENT

MONDALE WITH BUKOVSKY WHOM IT CONTINUES REFER TO AS COMMON CRIMINAL. STORY NOTES STRAIN SUCH MEETING PLACES ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND POINTS OUT THAT AS FAR AS RUSSIANS CONCERNED, SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS CANNOT PROCEED UNLESS TWO SIDES REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. OTHER ARTICLES IN NEPSZABADSAG, MAGYAR HIRLAP AND MAGYAR NEMZET CITE UNFAVORABLE WORLD PRESS REACTION TO AMERICAN STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN TASS, TIMES OF INDIA, THE NEW YORK TIMES--WHICH IT QUOTES AS HAVING QUESTIONED US RIGHT TO MORALIZE ON OTHER COUNTRY'S BEHAVIOR--AND YUGOSLAVIAN TANJUG. IN ONE OF THESE, MTI CRITICALLY NOTES RECENT SENATE RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH IT CALLS "PROVOCATIVE".

5. COMMENT: CURRENT SPATE OF PRESS ARTICLES ARE DESIGNED TO COUNTER US STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM COMMUNIST INFRINGEMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TO DEVELOP POSITION FOR APPROACHING BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP MEETING. SO FAR MEDIA ARE POINTED BUT NOT STRIDENT IN THEIR REFERENCES TO US, CONCENTRATING ON WEAK LINKS IN US MORAL ARMOR. MEDIA HAVE AIR OF DISCUSSING EVENTS TAKING PLACE ELSEWHERE AND NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNING HUNGARY. THUS, COMMENTARY DISCUSSES US RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, COMMUNIST WORLD AS WHOLE, AND SOVIET UNION BUT THERE IS NO SUGGESTION OF DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. EMBASSY EXPECTS HUNGARIAN MEDIA TO CONTINUE REFLECTING INTENSIFIED HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN SAME VEIN, MATCHING VOLUME OF OUTPUT TO AMOUNT OF CRITICISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMING FROM WEST AND TO DEGREE WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS IS IN NEWS AT A GIVEN MOMENT. MUDD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, DEBATES, HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009